LIBRARY

E19SEP44
C.H. 34

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

WINSFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the Winsford Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1943.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	7,094 acres.
Population - Registrar-General's latest estimate of population	10,850.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943)	3,337.
Rateable value	£48,224.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£185.

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	171	97	74	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 16.95.
	Illegitimate	13	4	9	
Stillbirths	Legitimate	7	6	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. .. 41.66.
	Illegitimate	1	1	-	
Deaths		150	75	75	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 13.82.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Heading 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	-	-
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	-	-
Total	-	-

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-	
All infants per 1,000 live births	21.73.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	23.39.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	20.
" " Measles (all ages)	1.
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	1.
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	2.

CAUSES OF DEATH - 1943.
(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

		M.	F.	Total
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-	-	-
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-
3.	Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	-	1	1
5.	Diphtheria	-	-	-
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	1	3
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	-	2
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-
9.	Influenza	3	6	9
10.	Measles	1	-	1
11.	Ac:polio-myel: & polio-enceph:	-	-	-
12.	Ac: inf: enceph:	-	-	-
13.	Cancer of b:cav: & oesoph: (M) uterus (F)	2	1	3
14.	Cancer of stomach or duodenum	2	4	6
15.	Cancer of Breast	-	1	1
16.	Cancer of all other sites	3	7	10
17.	Diabetes	-	1	1
18.	Intra-cran: vasc: lesions	7	8	15
19.	Heart Diseases	27	16	43
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	5	6
21.	Bronchitis	6	4	10
22.	Pneumonia	1	2	3
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	1	-	1
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	1	3
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	2	-	2
26.	Appendicitis	-	-	-
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	1	4	5
28.	Nephritis	1	3	4
29.	Puerperal & post-abort: Sepsis	-	-	-
30.	Other maternal causes	-	-	-
31.	Premature Birth	-	-	-
32.	Congenital Debility & Malformations	2	1	3
33.	Suicide	-	1	1
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	1	-	1
35.	Other violent causes	-	1	1
36.	All other causes	8	7	15
	Totals	75	75	150

SECTION B. - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There are no new or special provisions to report upon this year. The Cleansing Centre services referred to in my 1942 report have been fully utilised and appreciated by cases of vermin infestation amongst our own Urban residents, Evacuees and residents from adjoining County Districts. Early in 1943 the useful practice was commenced of giving preventive treatment to other members of a household in which Scabies had already occurred even though such home contacts had no visible signs of infection. No formal action under the Scabies Order was called for during the year, it being found that persuasion alone was sufficient to ensure the attendance at the Cleansing Centres of both sufferers from, and contacts to cases of, vermin infestation.

Towards the end of the year Influenza became prevalent and the suggestions of the Ministry of Health on how the Local Authority could assist households in which hardship was being experienced were acted upon and approach made to local organisations asking them to assist in giving any home help they could. Fortunately the epidemic, though widespread, did not prove too dangerous and enquiries of the local Practitioners at the time, showed that very few families were not able to manage with the help of relatives and neighbours. For this reason it was not found necessary to make use of the voluntary organisations locally.

SECTION C. - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water - During the year 5 samples for the presence of B.Coli-aerogenes organisms were submitted to the County Analyst and of these, three which were chlorinated waters taken at the consumers end, were satisfactory, a fourth before chlorination taken at the source was just satisfactory and the fifth (Shays Brook) before chlorination was unsatisfactory. In addition 4 samples in the distribution system were examined for residual chlorine and gave results varying from 0.125 to 0.60 p.p.m. At the time of writing the Council are awaiting the comprehensive report of the County Analyst on their water supplies.

As to the sufficiency of the supply in the area, the following sets out the proportion of dwelling houses and the population served from the Council's Waterworks, either directly or by means of standpipes:-

		Population Served.
Percentage of house with direct piped service	- 99.82%	10,850 (approx.)
Percentage of houses with standpipe service	- Nil.	
Percentage of houses dependent upon private wells or other sources	- 0.18%	20 "

I am indebted to Mr. P. Heaton, the Engineer & Surveyor to the Council, for the following general statement on the water supply, drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal of the area:-

"Water - It should be mentioned that this was maintained during the year under review in quality and quantity adequate for the Council's requirements and that discussions now proceeding with regard to a Water Board may eventually lead to a reduction in the number of separate waterworks in this part of the County."

"Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal - The Council have received my main drainage report which provides for the entire removal of the two main sewage disposal works in the bottom Flash and the substitution by main sewage outfall works at Newbridge to provide for the ultimate drainage of the Whitegate and Vale Royal areas as a post war measure.

Unsatisfactory conditions existing at present in the Chester Lane, Blakeden, Littler Lane and Moor's Lane areas will be provided for by the new intercepting sewer with outfall works at Ashbrook. This part of the scheme will only be effected by collaboration with the neighbouring Local Authority and in view of the discussions now proceeding with regard to amalgamation, this point is of some relevance.

It is also relevant to say that the only stretch of the River Weaver sufficiently pure to carry fish in prolific quantity is the stretch from the Winsford Sewage Works downstream to Northwich and is some indication of the effects the Council's present sewage disposal systems and the drainage of the town of Winsford have on the river."

Closet Accommodation - During the year the number of conversions to the water carriage system was 12 and the number of houses still on the old system in built-up areas is 188.

Public Cleansing - The routine work of refuse collection and disposal and the cleansing of pail closets etc. proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Statement of Inspections made and Notices Issued.

Nature of Inspections made	Number	Number of Notices Served		Results of services of Notices			
		Statutory	Informal	Notice complied with	Remaining in hand	Prosecutions Instituted	Prosecutions Pending
1. Dwelling Houses (General Inspection)	198	4	46	42	8	-	-
2. Cellar Dwellings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Back-to-Back Houses	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Courts, Yards, Passages	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Privy Middens, Earth Closets, Peat Pails, Cesspool Privies	27	-	6	6	-	-	-
7. Cesspools	4	-	2	2	-	-	-
8. House Drainage	56	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Ditches, Water-courses, etc.	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Offensive Accumulations	22	-	7	7	-	-	-
11. Keeping of Animals	18	-	5	5	-	-	-
12. Offensive Trades	43	-	4	4	-	-	-
13. a) Slaughterhouse (Public)	475	-	10	10	-	-	-
	(used by the Ministry of Food).						
b) Slaughterhouses (Private)	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
c) Other places where food is produced or sold	84	-	6	6	-	-	-
14. Piggeries	35	-	-	-	-	-	-
15. a) Dairies	87	-	-	-	-	-	-
b) Shippons	109	-	12	12	-	-	-
c) Milk Shops	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
16. a) Factories with mechanical power	36	-	2	2	-	-	-
b) Factories without mechanical power	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
c) Other premises under the Act (including works of building)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
d) Outworkers premises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17. Ashbins	225	44	14	46	12	-	-
18. Bakehouses (over-ground)	33	-	-	-	-	-	-
19. Common Lodging Houses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20. Houses let in Lodgings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21. Smoke Observations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22. River Boats	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
23. Infectious Disease Inquiries & Re-visits	147	-	-	-	-	-	-
24. Miscellaneous	61	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1,731	48	114	142	20	-	-

FACTORIES INSPECTION.

Premises	No. of inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	36	2	-
Factories without mechanical power	12	-	-
Other premises	10	-	-
Totals	58	2	-

Defects found in Factories:-

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) (Insufficient. Unsuitable or defective. Not separate for sexes.	2	2	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	2	-	-

SECTION D. - HOUSING.

Maintenance of Council Houses - Repeated visits of inspection were paid during the course of the year to a limited number of Council properties where it was evident that proper and full use of the amenities offered by modern Council houses were not being made by the tenants. It has to be admitted frankly that persuasion and encouragement did little to effect any permanent improvement in the standard of cleanliness and in the general management of these houses and it is a sad reflection on such tenants that they have not the good sense to make better use of the housing amenities provided by the Council.

The main housing activities during the year can be summarized as follows:-

1. - Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.
   (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. 137.

   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. 193.

   (2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. 2.

   (3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 71.

11. - Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .. .. 51.

111. - Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a) Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 .. .. Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. 48.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices

(a) By owners .. .. .. 30.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .. 6.

(c) Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 .. .. .. 2.

SECTION E. - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply - The routine examination of farms and dairies has been continued during the year and structural improvements carried out at a number of the shippons. Many samples of pasteurised milk produced in an adjoining County District and retailed to consumers in the Winsford Urban District were taken during 1943 by the County Health Authorities and all of them were found to satisfy the Laboratory tests for both safety and cleanliness. I think Winsford can be regarded as fortunate in having available a supply, limited though it is, of such a safe and wholesome milk.

(b) Meat and Other Foods - The following, based upon a statement made by the Meat Inspector, is a summary of the carcases inspected and condemned during the year:-

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	602	1,071	1,630	7,807	132
Number inspected	602	1,071	1,630	7,807	132
All Diseases Except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned	16	70	6	2	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	60	152	12	79	6
Percentage of the number inspected, affected with Disease other than Tuberculosis	12.62%	20.72%	1.104%	1.03%	4.54%
Tuberculosis Only.					
Whole carcases condemned	8	63	4	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	67	525	-	-	12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	12.45%	54.90%	.24%	-	9.09%

47 carcases were examined in connection with the operation of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, the entire carcases and organs of 21 were condemned; the remainder were passed, less offals, which were surrendered.

The Inspectors under the Diseases of Animals Act notified 2 suspected cases of Anthrax, none of which were confirmed by the veterinary surgeons.

(c) The inspection of premises in which other foods are prepared has been continued during the year.

SECTION F.
PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

(1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases throughout the year 1943 was quite low. I regard the reductions in the number of Diphtheria cases from 36 in 1942 to 2 in 1943 as reflecting the progress made in the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme. Of the 2 cases of Diphtheria notified, one only proved to be genuine Diphtheria and this child had not had any protective treatment.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis), during the year 1943.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	20	19	-
Diphtheria	2	2	-
Pneumonia	19	-	3
Erysipelas	5	-	-
Measles	87	-	1
Whooping Cough	7	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-

Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for	Number submitted	Result	
		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Bacilli	12	-	12
Haemolytic Streptococci	1	-	1
Blood Culture	1	-	1

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.
The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
5 - 15 "	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 "	5	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 "	2	1	-	1	2	-	-	-
35 - 45 "	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
45 - 55 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	9	2	5	3	2	1	1	1

Number of patients on register at 31st December, 1942 - 83.
Number of patients on register at 31st December, 1943 - 97.

(3) SCABIES AND VERMINOUS INFESTATION.

The arrangements made jointly with the other three Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities in 1942 worked very satisfactorily during the year under review and it is gratifying to record a reduction in 1943 of more than 30% in the numbers of cases of vermin infestation. The following sets out the 1942 and 1943 figures of patients dealt with:-

	1942.		1943.	
Cases of Scabies	285	total 287.	195	total 196.
Cases of Pediculosis	2		1	
Number of Households involved	110		85	

At the time of writing, mid 1944, it is apparent that the incidence of Scabies is still decreasing.

(4) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The Scheme which was commenced in 1941 jointly with the other three Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities was continued and by the end of the year 1943 the total number of children known to have had protective treatment in the Urban area was 2,265. The actual percentages of protected children by the end of the year 1943 were:-

under 5 years 53.3%.
between 5 - 15 years 87.01%.

Set out below is a table recording the progress of the Immunisation Scheme, the numbers dealt with in the various age groups, etc. since the Scheme was first started in 1941. This table takes the form of that recommended by the Ministry of Health.

Age in years on 31st December of the corresponding year.	Persons inoculated each year from 1941 - 1943			
	1941	1942	1943	
0 -	1	-	-	Total inoculated aged under five years on 31st Dec.1943:- 433.
1 -	24	68	87	
2 -	55	51	49	
3 -	53	46	29	
4 -	56	38	22	
5 -	85	49	22	Total inoculated aged 5 - 14 years on 31st Dec.1943:- 1,412.
6 -	122	42	9	
7 -	114	18	10	
8 -	134	14	4	
9 -	140	14	2	
10 -	132	9	2	
11 -	143	18	3	
12 -	140	16	2	
13 -	154	6	2	
14 -	151	4	1	
15 and over	27	-	-	Total aged 15 years and over:- 336.
Total each year	1,544	393	244	Grand total 1941 -1943:- 2,181.
Age not known	14	5	1	20.
Children known to have had treatment privately or elsewhere:-				64.
		GRAND TOTAL		2,265

(5) VENEREAL DISEASES.
The suggestions of the Ministry of Health's circular 2805, received in April 1943, stressing the need for greater publicity on the subject of Venereal Diseases were acted upon so far as this Authority is responsible for this service. Both films and posters were displayed locally throughout the year and complete lists of treatment facilities are available to all who may enquire about them.

The practice of home disinfection in cases of Infectious Diseases (including Tuberculosis) and the eradication of vermin was continued during the year. All the Schools were disinfected at least twice during the year and 10 houses disinfested for the purpose of eradicating vermin.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1944.